

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An ~~RNA molecule~~ oligoribonucleotide of length between about 12 and about 36 nucleotides comprising at least one modified nucleotide, wherein the modified nucleotide is a 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro nucleotide having at least one 2'-deoxy-2-fluoro uridine and at least one 2'-deoxy-2-fluoro cytidine.
2. (Currently Amended) The ~~RNA molecule~~ oligoribonucleotide of claim 1, wherein all pyrimidine nucleotides present in said ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
- 3-4. (Canceled).
5. (Currently Amended) The ~~RNA molecule~~ oligoribonucleotide of claim 1, wherein all uridine nucleotides present in said ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro uridine nucleotides.
6. (Currently Amended) The ~~RNA molecule~~ oligoribonucleotide of claim 1, wherein all cytidine nucleotides present in said ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro cytidine nucleotides.
7. (Currently Amended) The ~~RNA molecule~~ oligoribonucleotide of claim 1, wherein all adenosine nucleotides present in said ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro adenosine nucleotides.
8. (Currently Amended) The ~~RNA molecule~~ oligoribonucleotide of claim 1, wherein all guanosine nucleotides present in said ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro guanosine nucleotides.
9. (Currently Amended) The ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide of claim 1, further comprising at least one modified internucleotidic linkage.
10. (Currently Amended) The ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide of claim 9, wherein said internucleotidic linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~RNA-molecule~~ oligoribonucleotide of claim 1, wherein one or more said 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoronucleotides are present at specifically selected locations in said ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide that are sensitive to cleavage by ribonucleases.
12. (Currently Amended) The ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide of claim 11, wherein said specifically selected locations that are sensitive to cleavage by ribonucleases comprise pyrimidine nucleotides.
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~RNA-molecule~~ oligoribonucleotide of claim 1, wherein said ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide is associated with one or more cellular proteins.
14. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing the stability of an ~~RNA-molecule~~ oligoribonucleotide of length between about 12 and about 36 nucleotides against cleavage by ribonucleases, comprising introducing at least one modified nucleotide into said ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide, wherein said modified nucleotide is a 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro nucleotide having at least one 2'-deoxy-2-fluoro uridine and at least one 2'-deoxy-2-fluoro cytidine.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein all pyrimidine nucleotides present in said ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide are replaced by 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein at least one of the pyrimidine nucleotides in said ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide is replaced with a 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotide.
- 17-19. (Canceled).
20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein all uridine nucleotides present in said ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide are replaced with 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro uridine nucleotides.
21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein all cytidine nucleotides present in said ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide are replaced with 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro cytidine nucleotides.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein all adenosine nucleotides present in said ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide are replaced with 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro adenosine nucleotides.
23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein all guanosine nucleotides present in said ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide are replaced with 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro guanosine nucleotides.
24. (Currently Amended) The ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide of claim 1 comprising nucleotide sequence that is complementary to nucleotide sequence in a separate RNA.
25. (Currently Amended) The ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide of claim 24, wherein said separate RNA is a viral RNA.
26. (Currently Amended) The ~~RNA~~ oligoribonucleotide of claim 25, wherein said viral RNA is HIV RNA.